

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1.-139. (Canceled)

140. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising  
a conjugate of hyaluronic acid and a linking molecule that is a substrate of  
transglutaminase, wherein the linking molecule comprises[[is]] at least two contiguous aliphatic  
amines or[[ ]] two contiguous carboxamides, wherein the aliphatic amines are lysines ~~or a derivative  
of lysine~~, and wherein the carboxamides are glutamines ~~or a derivatives of glutamine~~, and  
free hyaluronic acid, wherein the molar ratio of free hyaluronic acid to conjugate is  
at least 2.

141. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 140, wherein the linking molecule  
is native polylysine.

142. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The composition of claim 140, wherein the  
linking molecule is native polyglutamine.

143. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 140, wherein the linking molecule  
comprises[[is]] at least five contiguous aliphatic amines or five contiguous carboxamides.

144. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 140, wherein the linking molecule  
comprises at least two contiguous[[is]] lysines ~~or a derivative of lysine~~, and wherein the conjugate  
has a negative charge to positive charge ratio of greater than 1.0.

145. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 140, wherein the conjugate has a  
weight ratio of hyaluronic acid to the conjugate of at least 90%.

146. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 140, further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

147. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating dry eye or dry mouth comprising  
a solution comprising an effective amount effective to treat dry eye or dry mouth of  
hyaluronic acid covalently linked to a linking molecule that is a substrate of transglutaminase,  
wherein the linking molecule comprises[[is]] at least two contiguous aliphatic amines or[[ ]] two  
contiguous carboxamides, wherein the aliphatic amines are lysines ~~or a derivative of lysine~~, and  
wherein the carboxamides are glutamines ~~or a derivatives of glutamine~~, wherein the linking  
molecule is uncomplexed, and  
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

148. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 147, wherein the linking molecule is native polylysine.

149. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The composition of claim 147, wherein the linking molecule is native polyglutamine.

150. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 147, wherein linking molecule comprises[[is]] at least five contiguous aliphatic amines or five contiguous carboxamides.

151. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 147, wherein the linking molecule comprises at least two contiguous[[is]] lysines ~~or a derivative of lysine~~, and wherein the conjugate has a negative charge to positive charge ratio of greater than 1.0.

152. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 147, wherein the conjugate has a weight ratio of hyaluronic acid to the conjugate of at least 90%.

153. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 147, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable carrier comprises an ophthalmic preservative.

154. (Currently Amended) A product comprising  
an[[An]] eye dropper bottle containing:  
a conjugate of hyaluronic acid and [[a to ]]a linking molecule that is a substrate of transglutaminase, wherein the linking molecule comprises[[is]] at least two contiguous aliphatic amines or[[ ]] two contiguous carboxamides, wherein the aliphatic amines are lysines ~~or a derivative of lysine~~, and wherein the carboxamides are glutamines ~~or a derivatives of glutamine~~, wherein the linking molecule is uncomplexed, and  
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

155. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 154, wherein the linking molecule is native polylysine.

156. (Withdrawn and Previously Presented) The composition of claim 154, wherein the linking molecule is native polyglutamine.

157. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 154, wherein linking molecule comprises[[is]] at least five contiguous aliphatic amines or five contiguous carboxamides.

158. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 154, wherein the linking molecule comprises at least two contiguous[[is]] lysines ~~or a derivative of lysine~~, and wherein the conjugate has a negative charge to positive charge ratio of greater than 1.0.

159. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 154, wherein the conjugate has a weight ratio of hyaluronic acid to the conjugate of at least 90%.